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AUGUST EMIL VOGL.

August Emil Vogl was born August 3, 1833, in Weisskirchen, Mähren, his father being an apothecary in that place. At the age of thirteen August became a student at the high-school in Olmütz and Kremsier, which he continued to attend until 1854, after which he studied medicine at the medico-chirurgical Josefs-Academy in Vienna. In 1859 he attended as provisory chief surgeon during the Italian campaign, and graduated in 1860 with the title of Doctor of Medical Sciences, at the same time being commissioned a chief surgeon and appointed Assistant in Natural History at the Josefs-Academy.

In 1864 he qualified as Privat-docent of Pharmacognosy at the University in Vienna; served in 1866 in the capacity of regimental surgeon in various military hospitals; and from 1867 to 1869 acted as Librarian and Assistant Professor of Chemistry (under F. C. Schneider) in the Josefs-Academy. In the spring of 1870 he was appointed Professor in Extraordinary of Botany and Zoology at the German Polytechnicum in Prague, where in 1873 he became Professor in Ordinary. Early in 1874 he received his appointment as Professor in Ordinary of Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy at the Vienna University.

Since 1878 Vogl has been a member and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Superior Council of Hygiene; in 1885 he was elected corresponding member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, and became a knight of the order of the Iron Crown; since 1888 he is K. K. court counselor, and in 1887–1888 he was Rector Magnificus of the University of Vienna, besides being elected Dean of the Medical Faculty for the years 1876–7, 1881–2, 1882–3, 1884–5, and 1889–90.

Literary Contributions.—(*a*) Separate publications:

Cinchona Barks on the Vienna Market and in Vienna

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STERILIZATION OF HYPODERMIC SOLUTIONS.—D. Marinucci has found large numbers of living germs, some of a harmful nature, in freshly prepared hypodermic solutions of strychnine sulphate, morphine hydrochlorate, atropine sulphate, eserine, etc. Sterilization by heat did not affect the therapeutic value of strychnine and quinine, but partly checked the action of morphine and atropine. Eserine and atropine solutions are said to be best prepared with a solution of corrosive sublimate (1 in 1000), which renders them aseptic without modifying their therapeutic properties. Morphine solution could not be sterilized without injuriously affecting the properties of the alkaloid. It is suggested that all such solutions should be renewed every fourteen days.—*Centr. f. Bakt.*, xii, 282 (*Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions*, Feb. 25, 1893).

THYROID EXTRACT.—Dr. Edmund White, B.Sc., pharmaceutist to St. Thomas's Hospital, informs the *British Medical Journal* that he has succeeded in preparing the active principle of the thyroid, whatever it may be, in a dry state. In his process the glands were first exhausted with a mixture of equal parts of glycerin and water. The filtered fluid was then acidulated with phosphoric acid, and calcium hydrate added until an alkaline reaction was obtained. The precipitate was filtered out as rapidly as possible, washed, and dried over sulphuric acid without heat. The powder obtained in this manner has been employed successfully by Dr. Davies in the treatment of cases of myxœdema. The dose given was 3 grains, corresponding to one-eighth of a gland, and of this about one grain was organic matter. Recently Mr. White has been making 3 grains equivalent to one-sixth of a gland. He is carrying his investigation further, with a view to determining whether the active principle is a ferment or not.

A NEW COMPOUND OF IODINE AND LEAD.—A new iodine compound of lead is described by M. Groger (*Monatsh. für Chem.*), and obtained as follows: To a solution of 1 gramme of iodine in 10 c. c. of absolute alcohol, is added one of 5 grammes of crystallized acetate of lead in 15 c.c. of water and 30 c.c. of absolute alcohol, and the mixture set aside for fourteen to sixteen hours at the temperature of the room, for the precipitation of small quantities of basic iodide of lead. The fluid is then quickly passed through a filter moistened with alcohol, and diluted with 100 c.c. of water, when a brownish-red precipitate occurs. This is collected on a filter, washed with water free from carbonic acid, and dried at the temperature of the room. The drying is continued as long as any iodine is yet being given off. The final product is described as a dark brownish violet-red powder, which is permanent at ordinary temperatures. The new body is considered as a tri-iodo-oxy-iodide of lead, $PbO.PbI_2I_3$.

ACID CRESOTIC (paracresotic acid) has increased in medicinal value in the past year, as is evident from the accumulating favorable results from Continental observers. Practically nothing has been published as yet in this country. Abundant evidence now goes to prove what was pretty well established a year ago, that it is absolutely necessary that the *para*cresotic acid only be used. In the form of *sodium paracresotate* it has proved itself a safe and reliable article to use, especially with children. Prof. Demme has employed this salt in the Jenner Hospital in Berne, and his records show good results in acute articular rheumatism, catarrhal pneumonia, gastro-intestinal catarrh, and typhoid fever. As an antipyretic it was found to be inferior to salicylic acid, but it was better tolerated by the digestive organs, and did not produce the congestion salicylic acid sometimes causes. In the typhoid fever cases it checked the diarrhœa very markedly. Young adults may be safely given as much as 4 grammes (60 grains) daily.—Squibb's *Ephemeris*, February, 1893.

A PLANT TO SUPPRESS MALARIA.—Dr. Brandes, of Hanover, calls attention to the properties of the *Anacharis alsinastrum*, a water plant which has hitherto been considered an unmitigated plague, choking up rivers, and altogether useless. He has remarked that in the district where he lives, and where malaria and diarrhœa yearly appeared in a sporadic or epidemic form, these diseases have gradually decreased since the *Anacharis alsinastrum* began to infest the neighboring rivers and marshes, and since four years have totally disappeared. The above-named water plant nourishes itself on decayed vegetable matter, and grows with incredible rapidity. It thus destroys the germs which produce malaria and diarrhœa; and besides, its presence obliges the frequent cleansing of standing waters—a measure beneficial to health. Dr. Brandes therefore proposes that the experiment should be tried of planting the Anacharis in marshy districts. It is also useful in protecting the young fish, and affords an excellent fertilizer. The plant came originally from Canada, whence it was taken to England, and thence to Germany about 1840.—*Druggists' Circular*, March, 1893.

THE ORIGIN OF CANCER.—The tendency of recent years has been to attribute all diseases of unknown origin to bacteria; and, considering that these organisms are almost universal in their distribution, it is not to be wondered at that their presence has been verified in many instances where further investigation showed clearly that no specific pathogenic forms existed. Thus some observers have claimed to have proved the origin of cancer to be due to a bacillus as the exciting cause, but their results have not borne criticism. Later researches have tended to associate the disease with the presence of parasitic protozoa, and the latest contribution to our knowledge of the subject is contained in the Morton Lecture recently delivered by Dr. James Galloway. He describes the parasites, found on microscopic examination of cancer of the breast, as rounded or oval structures varying from 2μ to 10μ in diameter, sometimes having a very distinct capsule and a smaller body of variable shape near the centre of this. They occur in the cell-body in numbers varying from one to eight or ten, and may also be observed in the cell-nucleus and intercellular spaces. The tissues are prepared for examination by fixing in Flemming's solution, hardening in alcohol, and staining

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